



**WILLIAM ROCKHILL
NELSON GALLERY OF
ART and MARY ATKINS
MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS**

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GALLERY NEWS

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GALLERY NEWS

October

1942

This issue, the first of the 1942-43 season, introduces the Fall and Winter activities at the Gallery. A number of interesting exhibitions is scheduled and it is hoped future war curtailments will not prevent their coming to Kansas City. It is sincerely felt that the Gallery is making a definite contribution in our present emergency and it is planned to continue and to extend as much as possible, all our many facilities.

SPECIAL FACILITIES FOR SERVICE MEN:

For over a year now, the Gallery has been host to service men in uniform without the regular admission charge. During the summer, many men have consulted with the Staff and used the Library for research in connection with personal art problems. At their request, the Tea Room on the North Mezzanine, has been furnished as a lounge and on Friday evenings a Staff member will be in attendance to discuss the Gallery collections or art in general with interested service men. Current art publications and books have been placed in the Tea Room and all service men are most cordially invited to meet here Friday evenings or week-ends.

FRIDAY EVENING OPENINGS:

The response last season to the Friday evening openings was most encouraging and they will be continued this year as a contribution to the war effort. Again, the Gallery will not open Fridays until one o'clock, closing at five and reopening from seven-thirty until ten. There will be no admission charge in the evening.

It was felt that the twenty-minute informal talk before the concert in the auditorium was also most successful and the following program for the month is announced:

October 2 - 7:45 Gallery Talk: A Chinese
T'ang Camel, Gallery 14

October 9 - 7:45, Gallery Talk: Goya's
"Disasters of War", Print Rooms

October 16 - 7:45, Gallery Talk: English Slip
Ware, Ceramics Room

October 23 - 7:45, Gallery Talk: Stuart's
"Portrait of Honorable John Fos-
ter", American Painting Rotunda

October 30 - 7:45, Gallery Talk: Chinese War
Equipment, Gallery 24

CURRENT LOAN EXHIBITION:

British War Posters: The colorful, arresting poster is playing an important part in the war effort on the home front. "The war poster is not a picture to sell pills, but to save civilizationPosters, however clever, are a waste of paper unless they kill Germans", wrote the chairman of the London Advertising Service Guild. There is a current feeling that British and American war posters so far have been ineffective, while those of the Germans and Russians have succeeded in their purposes. The United States is seeking to remedy this by a massive poster competition, approved by the government.

It is too early to judge the results of this competition, but the October Exhibition in the Central Loan Gallery affords an opportunity to view the British efforts. A group of some fifty posters lent by H.C.McClelland, Esq., British Consul of St. Louis shows our Ally's approach to the problem.

The subject matter is varied. Some are devoted to education, various types of British airplanes, war ships, identification of German soldiers; some illustrate the many branches of civilian defense. By far the largest group is an admonition against careless talk and the possible results in

information to the enemy. Often an amusing note is struck, as in the series by Fougasse which has often been reproduced. Successful or not, these posters form a timely and interesting exhibition.

The British War Posters will be augmented by a group of American posters of the last war, which will serve as an illuminating contrast. These have been lent by the Liberty Memorial Museum through the courtesy of James B. Nourse. The Exhibition will open on October 2nd and continue through the 30th.

MASTERPIECE ROOM:

A superb Chinese Tomb Figure of a Bactrian Camel has just been added to the Oriental Collection and has been installed in the Masterpiece Room for the month of October. With neck out-thrust in a vicious snort, the beast strides forward, laden with blankets and bags, bottles and bacon, fully equipped for a distant journey.

It dates from the T'ang Dynasty (618-907 A.D.) and is characteristic of the "spirit equipment" modeled to be buried with the dead, that the Chinese call Ming Ch'i. It is one of the largest camels known, measuring over thirty-four inches high and must have come from a princely tomb.

This Camel with its trappings of Persian influence calls to mind the great trade routes that flourished across Central Asia twelve and more hundred years ago. Today camels are once more plodding faithfully across those same roads, transporting oil which will refuel our modern airplanes rushing aid to the beleagued Chinese.

WEDNESDAY EVENING LECTURE SERIES: This season the Wednesday Evening Lectures will be devoted to French 19th and 20th Century paintings, using as material the fine examples which have been sent here for the duration. The lectures will be given by Mr. Gardner and will be largely illustrated with the new colour slides. The life of the artist, his personality and how he was significant of his time will be stressed. Individual painters, rather than group movements, will be the

subject matter.

The series will begin on the first Wednesday in November, the 4th. As usual, the Gallery will be open from seven until ten, the lectures will start at 8 o'clock and there will be no admission charge to the Gallery or lecture. For the month of October, concerts will be given in Atkins Auditorium on Wednesday evenings and the programs will be found in the calendar.

GALLERY CHANGES:

The Ceramics Room: For the months of October and November, the first of the chronological series of English Pottery for the season from the Mr. and Mrs. F.P. Burnap Collection will be installed in the Ceramics Room. This first group will start with the strong and virile Slip Ware of the 17th and early 18th centuries. The forty-nine pieces of the Burnap Collection include posset pots, tygs, cats, puzzle cups and a fine series of the great flat dishes made by such potters as Ralph and Thomas Toft, Ralph Simpson and William Taylor. It is the finest group of this early ware outside of England.

Examples of the red unglazed ware associated with the Elers Brothers and pierced Nottingham Ware will also be included. The superb collection of over one hundred pieces of delicate Salt Glaze Ware will conclude this installation. Here the porcelain-like, unique Pew Group, figurines, animals, bowls and brilliantly decorated tea pots are in direct contrast to the powerful and primitive Slip Ware.

The Print Rooms; A particularly timely subject, Goya's appalling commentary, The Disasters of War, has been installed in the Print Rooms and will remain on exhibition through the month of October. These eighty aquatint plates were inspired by the horrors of the Peninsular Campaign of the Napoleonic Wars. Goya was an eye-witness of many of the brutalities and must have recorded his impressions in his characteristic, quick sketches.

The actual plates, however, were not made until 1820 when Goya had left Spain and taken refuge in Bordeaux. None of the cruel and bestial savagery, the wanton waste of war was forgotten by him. The first edition was not printed until 1863 and the Gallery possesses a superb matched set of the eighty sheets. This particular series has an especial interest as it formerly belonged to Dr. Julius Hoffmann of Vienna and was the basis of his monumental Goya catalogue. These ever pertinent plates are one of the strongest accusations against war that man has ever preached.

Chinese War Equipment: Scrap metal for war was important in ancient China of thirty-five hundred years ago as it is to us today. On foot and from their two-wheeled chariots the soldiers shot their deadly arrows and wielded their handy dagger axes. As a protection against that age's modern warfare, they wore metal helmets with a lengthened crown which extended over the ears and neck. Two of the five complete bronze helmets which have been recovered from this early period are in the collection of the Nelson-Atkins Gallery.

During the month of October, this early metal armour, daggers, axes of various ages, tomb figures of soldiers, insignia of the military classes and a full suit of armour of the late 17th-early 18th century will be displayed in Gallery 24 in an exhibition of Chinese War Equipment.

FRIENDS OF ART: Due to the pressure of many war activities, it has been decided for the coming season to hold the Special Lectures for Members of the Friends of Art only once a month. These will take place at eleven o'clock on the third Thursday of each month and, as before, the Director will meet with the members in various galleries.

For the fifteenth of October, the discussion will take place in the Print Rooms and the subject will be Goya's Disasters of War. The background of the material and the outstanding plates will be examined. Members are urged to bring guests

who may be interested in joining the Friends of Art.

GALLERY NOTES: Discerning visitors to the Gallery will have noticed that two of our great paintings, Tintoretto's Portrait of Tommaso Contarini and Stuart's Portrait of the Honorable John Foster have been cleaned during the Summer by our restorer, Mr. Roth. The disfiguring varnish which concealed the luminous flesh and the delicate tonal harmonies has been removed and now the paintings are seen in their true brilliancy as conceived by the artist.

One of the November loan exhibitions should be of special interest. It will be devoted to a series of original drawings by contemporary American artists. They are all most moderately priced, are for sale and the artists have agreed to accept war stamps for them. Arrangements will be made for the purchase of war stamps at the Gallery to pay for any purchased drawings. Collectors will be offered an opportunity to assist in the war effort and to encourage American art. The drawings will make ideal Christmas or wedding gifts and the Gallery will undertake to frame them for a nominal sum.

In a recent monograph by Wilma Fairbank, Directory of Organizations in America Concerned with China, published by the American Council of Learned Societies, the Gallery Chinese Collection is listed as fourth in importance in the United States, surpassed only by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; the Freer Art Gallery, Washington and the Metropolitan Museum of New York City. This is a signal recognition of the place Kansas City and our collection has taken in the field of the art of the Orient.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT: The Nelson-Atkins Gallery opens its Winter Educational program with the art appreciation classes for children of seven years and over starting on Saturday, October 24th at 10:30 a.m. The classes offered include water colour and chalk drawing, clay modeling, marionette construction and manipulation, crafts for

various ages and the Technique of prints or painting. For boys and girls of high school age we are offering a special class in docentry, the technique and history of prints, one in the technique of oil and tempera painting, a new class in advanced clay modeling and one in water colour. Registration, with enrollment limited to 250, will be held at ten o'clock Saturday, October 17th. The enrollment fee will be \$3.00 with an additional supply fee varying according to class.

The Saturday afternoon programs will also start October 24th and the subjects will be announced later. These will include full length motion pictures, marionette plays and dramatic skits and are free to children of all ages. Some programs will be planned to appeal especially to High School students.

MUSIC: The concert season for 1942-43 promises to be one of the most interesting ever offered by the Gallery. Organizations that have given concerts in the past will all be represented as well as many additional groups. On Wednesday night, October 21st, a motion picture will be offered, "The Life of Mozart". This film portrays many interesting sidelights on the career of the 18th Century composer. Music for the picture is furnished by Sir Thomas Beecham and the London Philharmonic Orchestra. We sincerely hope that Gallery patrons and their friends will attend these programs and service men are particularly invited.

CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

Fri., 2 - 7:45 - Gallery Talk - Gallery 14
 " 2 - 8:15 - Concert - WPA Band
 Sun., 4 - 3:30 - Concert - Helen Loy
 Tues., 6 - 2:00 - Library - Asiatic Study Group
 Wed., 7 - 8:00 - Concert - Music Teachers Guild
 Fri., 9 - 7:45 - Gallery Talk - Print Rooms
 " 9 - 8:15 - Concert - Pupils of Mrs. Leta
 Wallace
 Sun., 11 - 3:30 - Concert - Amy Winning and Nora
 LaMar Moss
 Tues., 13 - 10:00 - Library - Aspasia Delphians
 Wed., 14 - 8:00 - Concert - To be announced
 Thurs. 15 - 11:00 - Print Rooms - Friends of Art
 Study Class
 Fri., 16 - 7:45 - Gallery Talk - Ceramics Room
 " 16 - 8:15 - Concert - Phi Mu Alpha
 Sat., 17 - 10:00 - Registration for Classes
 Sun., 18 - 3:30 - Concert - Sigma Alpha Iota
 Tues., 20 - 2:00 - Library - Asiatic Study Club
 " 20 - 2:00 - Tour & Tea - Sinawik Club
 Wed., 21 - 8:00 - Motion Picture - "Life of
 Mozart"
 Fri., 23 - 7:45 - Gallery Talk - American
 Painting Rotunda
 " 23 - 8:15 - Concert - Bell Canto Music
 Club
 Sun., 25 - 3:30 - Concert - Evaline Hartley
 Tues., 27 - 10:00 - Library - Aspasia Delphians
 Wed., 28 - 8:00 - Concert - Pupils of Mrs.
 Gertrude Concannon
 Fri., 30 - 7:45 - Gallery Talk - Gallery 24
 " 30 - 8:15 - Concert - Ethel Kelley

WILLIAM ROCKHILL NELSON GALLERY OF ART

ATKINS MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

KANSAS CITY, MO.

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